

# **European BACKGROUND INFORMATION Community**

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### **BACKGROUND NOTE**

No. 36/1976

July 29, 1976

### **A UNITED APPROACH ON THE LAW OF THE SEA**

The nine nations of the European Community will attend the next session of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea with a united position when participants reconvene on August 2.

The position, approved by the Council of Ministers on July 27, calls for

- the creation of a 200-mile exclusive economic zone around the Community
- the extension of this limit to the continental shelf
- the creation of a body to supervise the orderly exploration of the seabed.
- the creation of a mechanism to prevent the formation of monopolies or dominant positions
- the obligatory settlement of disputes.

In a declaration of intent issued after its meeting, the Council said it had decided to extend its fishing limits to 200 miles without waiting for the end of the conference because other North Atlantic countries had already done so or planned to do so by January 1, 1977. Community fishermen's interests had to be protected, the Council said. Fishing within Community members' continental waters will be regulated by the Community's common fisheries' policy, according to the declaration. The Community said that the means of putting this declaration of intent into force would be chosen by October 1 in the light of the results of the forthcoming Law of the Sea session.